

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00883 300737Z

16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 IO-14 /106 W

----- 035326

R 291510Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LT, US

SUBJ: LESOTHO DETAINEES

REF: STATE 162814

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF JUSTICE MAPETLA EVENING JULY 28 CONCERNING ABUSES HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AMBASSADOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTION OF LESOTHO DETAINEES. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED WE RECEIVE INQUIRIES THIS SUBJECT FROM TIME TO TIME AND THAT GENERAL QUESTION OF POLITICAL DETAINEES OF SOME CONCERN TO U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESS AS EVIDENCED BY DIFFICULTIES WE ENCOUNTERING WITH TRADE BILL PROVIDE USSR MFN TREATMENT.

2. IN RESPONSE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID DELAY IN BRINGING LESOTHO DETAINEES TO TRIAL APPARENTLY CAUSED BY PHYSICAL PROBLEM PROSECUTION FACES IN SORTING OUT AND ORGANIZING MASS OF EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY POLICE. HE GAVE IMPRESSION HE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT DELAY IN BRINGING DETAINEES TO TRIAL.

3. SINCE AMBASSADOR HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO CHIEF JUSTICE
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PAGE 02 MASERU 00883 300737Z

AND IN LIGHT OF REPORT TO EFFECT THAT DETAINEES MAY IN

FACT BE RELEASED IN NEAR FUTURE FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE,
BELIEVE WE SHOULD WAIT FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
BOLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Event:
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Type: TE
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